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WALLACE, HELEN M. (University of California School of Public Health), and HUNT, ELEANOR P.: *Followup study of MCH trainees in schools of public health. Public Health Reports, Vol. 78, July 1963, pp. 603-610.*

A followup study of 214 U.S. health workers who received training in maternal and child health in six schools of public health during a 14-year period was conducted by means of questionnaires. Of the largest group, 163 physicians, 122 replied.

The average age of the respondents at the time of admission to the school of public health was 36.4 years, and 11 years was the mean interval that had elapsed since their graduation from medical school. About 39 percent were new both to general public health work and to maternal and child health. Ninety percent had had some clinical training in a medical specialty, most in pediatrics, and 58 percent were certified by a medical specialty board.

One-half of the group were currently employed in maternal and child health work and an additional one-fourth in gen-

eral public health, a total of 98 of the 122. Their mean annual salary for full-time employment was \$13,706. More than half of the group also had additional teaching responsibilities. Most frequent reasons for leaving the maternal and child health field were promotions, salary, and type of work.

The respondents suggested that training in the schools of public health might give greater emphasis to program evaluation, administration, consultation and supervision, epidemiologic and statistical methods in research, and to child welfare services. Nearly two-thirds suggested that a school of public health could assist them in such areas as refresher courses, research, consultation, preparation and distribution of materials, training, and greater collaboration with public health agencies.

MORGAN, RICHARD D. (California State Department of Mental Hygiene), and COOK, LEONARD R.: *Relationship of methods of admission to length of stay in State hospitals. Public Health Reports, Vol. 78, July 1963, pp. 619-629.*

Fourteen thousand first admissions to California State mental hospitals were stratified into cohorts by sex and by method of admission, a parameter closely associated with the likelihood of release from hospital. Each patient in each cohort was then followed by the anniversary method through successive changes in status over a 24-month period rather than merely to his first significant release from hospital, the usual practice.

Generally, male patients had a lower likelihood of hospital residence than females; residence curves for male patients were lower among voluntary admissions, admissions by health officer's application, and civil commitments.

Comparison of four categories of male admissions for mental illness showed that the patient's acceptance of the need for treatment was associated with early release; 20 percent of the voluntary admis-

sions, 30 percent of those admitted by health officer's application, 40 percent of the civil commitments, and 70 percent of the criminal commitments were hospitalized at the end of 6 months after their first admission.

Statutory provisions regarding hospitalization affected the actual length of stay of alcoholics, sexual psychopaths, and wards of the juvenile courts and the State youth authority. Civil commitments constituted the largest single cohort and showed the highest retention curve of any of the larger cohorts. Thus, over the years the residuals of these civil commitments have accumulated to form the bulk of the hospital resident population.

The authors suggest some practical applications of their data in hospital administration and their usefulness as benchmarks in program evaluation.

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LITTLETON, NORMAN W. (Public Health Service): *Dental caries and periodontal diseases among Ethiopian civilians. Public Health Reports, Vol. 78, July 1963, pp. 631-640.*

A low prevalence of dental caries but widespread periodontal diseases were found among a sample of 1,085 Ethiopian civilian males and females, aged 5 through 84 years. The dental survey was part of a nutrition survey in Ethiopia conducted by the Interdepartmental Committee on Nutrition for National Defense in 1958.

At a mean age of 23.9 years, 77 percent of the sample was free of dental caries. Persons younger than 40 years averaged less than one decayed, missing, or filled tooth per person; those older than 50 years averaged about three decayed, missing, or filled teeth per person.

The low dental caries experience of the sample could not be attributed to superior nutrition or to ingestion of fluoride. The Ethiopian diet is traditionally high in

total carbohydrates, but low in refined carbohydrates. Analysis of water from six of the eight geographic regions from which the sample was drawn indicated that fluoride content was somewhat below concentrations considered best for prevention of dental caries.

Deposits of supragingival calculus and debris were seen in more than 90 percent of the sample. The condition of periodontal tissues was directly related to the relative amounts of supragingival calculus and debris.

Serum levels of ascorbic acid and vitamin A and urinary excretion of thiamine, riboflavin, and N-methylnicotinamide did not appear to be associated with either periodontal index or gingival recession scores in 211 persons for whom these determinations were made.

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